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*Il Nuovo realismo in Inghilterra e in America.* A. ALIOTTA. Prato : "La Tipografica." 1915. Pp. 114.

This small volume is a very interesting; and, in many respects, a valuable contribution to contemporary philosophical literature. It deals with American new realism, which it studies in its sources and in its doctrines, showing, with unusual acumen, its merits and its shortcomings.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the forerunners of the new realism, especially with Moore and Russell, whose doctrines are accurately exposed in all their forms and ably criticized. In the second part, we are directly introduced to the American new realists. The author does not limit himself to giving an account of their philosophy. He shows their place in the history of modern thought, and contrasts their doctrine with that of the neighboring schools. We learn from his book what the realist owes to the idealist. We realize that modern thought has been modified by the idealistic current to such an extent as to compel the new realists to differ from the ancients in many essential points. Here, also, the author touches upon pragmatism, and shows how it agrees with realism in many respects, differing from it in this essential characteristic that, for the realist, consciousness, although active, does not in any way alter reality.

Not less interesting is the third part of the book, in which the author gives his own criticism of the realistic philosophy. His strongest objection seems to be the excessive pluralism to which realism condemns itself, having rejected all principles of unity, and thereby made impossible any explanation of the genesis of our experience. It may be doubted, says the author, whether the universe is one single system; but no realist can deny that partial systems exist, although their existence is for him a mystery.

In point of fact, the author sees three mysteries in the new American realism: how consciousness can arise from the chaos of external reality; how the unity of the subject can arise from the plurality of phenomena; how an activity can be conceived, which does not alter reality (p. 105).

A fairly complete bibliography of the new realism is appended to the volume, and makes it a useful book of reference.

J. L. PERRIER.

NEW YORK CITY.

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## JOURNALS AND NEW BOOKS

JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY. October, 1916. *The Existence and Function of Inner Speech in Thought*